

16966-00002
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1. (Twice Amended) A flat information recording/processing device comprising:
- a thin fingerprint sensor;
 - a conversion unit configured to convert fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor into digital electrical signals; and
 - an exposed terminal on a part of a surface of said device, said exposed terminal configured for connecting with an external terminal.
2. (Twice Amended) A flat information recording/processing device comprising:
- a thin fingerprint sensor;
 - a memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data;
 - a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare newly detected fingerprint data with the registered fingerprint data stored in the memory unit; and
 - an exposed terminal on a part of a surface of said device, said exposed terminal configured for connecting with an external terminal.
3. (Twice Amended) A flat information recording/processing device comprising:
- a thin fingerprint sensor;
 - a memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data;

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an exposed terminal on a part of a surface of said device, said exposed terminal configured for connecting with an external terminal; and

a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare newly detected fingerprint data with the registered fingerprint data stored in the memory and to output a signal indicative of when there is a match of the fingerprints in the comparison to said exposed terminal.

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6. (Twice Amended) An information recording/processing system comprising:

a portable information recording unit comprising a thin fingerprint sensor, a first memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data, a second memory unit in which user-specific information is kept, and an exposed terminal configured for connecting with an information processing unit; and

an information processing unit comprising an external terminal configured to interface with said exposed terminal of said portable information recording unit, a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare newly detected fingerprint data, received at said terminal, with the registered fingerprint data stored in the first memory unit, received at said external terminal, and a display unit configured to display the user-specific information stored in said second memory unit, said information processing unit configured to display the user-specific information in the display unit when there is a match of fingerprints.

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9. (Twice Amended) A machine/system control device comprising:

a fingerprint sensor;

a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor with pre-registered fingerprint data;

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a control mechanism configured to control operation of the machine/system control device in accordance with user-specific information in accordance with a sensed fingerprint, when there is a match of fingerprint data with pre-registered fingerprint data; and

a slot for insertion of a read/write device, said slot comprising an external terminal configured to mate with an exposed terminal of the read/write device, said external terminal being where data is passed to said control device, the data being at least fingerprint data from a user of the read/write device.

10. (Twice Amended) A machine/system control device comprising:

a fingerprint sensor;

a first memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data;

a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor with registered fingerprint data stored in the memory unit;

a control mechanism configured to control operation of the machine/system control device in accordance with user-specific information corresponding to the fingerprint, when there is a match of fingerprint data with the registered fingerprint data; and

a slot for insertion of a read/write device, said slot comprising an external terminal configured to mate with an exposed terminal of the read/write device, said external terminal being where data is passed to said control device, the data being at least fingerprint data from a user of the read/write device.

17. (Once Amended) An information recording/processing system in accordance with claim 6 wherein said information processing unit comprises a second thin fingerprint sensor and

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a third memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the second fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data.

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18. (Once Amended) A machine/system control device in accordance with claim 9 in which the user-specific information is fingerprint data from a person who has authority to inspect or rewrite information in the read/write device.

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20. (Once Amended) A method for accessing a database of an information recording/processing device with a control device, said method comprising the steps of:

registering fingerprint data of a first person in a memory of the control device;

pressing a finger of the first person on a fingerprint sensor module of the control device to offer a fingerprint;

conditioning access to the database on a match of the offered fingerprint to fingerprint data in the memory of the control device;

connecting the information recording/processing device to the control device;

reading identification data from a memory of the information recording/processing device carried by a second person using the control device, the data read including fingerprint data;

pressing a finger of the second person on a fingerprint sensor module of the information recording/processing device to obtain a fingerprint; and

comparing the obtained fingerprint of the second person to the fingerprint data read from the information recording/processing device.

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25. (Once Amended) A method for controlling access to a vehicle, said method comprising:

placing a finger on a fingerprint sensor module of a remote control module;

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transmitting minutiae data of the fingerprint to a receiver mounted in the vehicle;
comparing the minutiae data to data stored in a database of registered drivers;
conditioning opening of a door of the vehicle upon a match of the minutiae data to data stored in the database of registered drivers; and
limiting a speed of the vehicle in accordance with data stored in the database for a matched registered driver.

B8

27. (Once Amended) A method for identifying an individual comprising the steps of:
recording fingerprint data of the individual as registered fingerprint data in a memory unit of a flat information recording/processing device;
sensing a fingerprint of the individual on a fingerprint sensor of the flat information recording/processing device;
comparing the sensed fingerprint of the individual to the registered fingerprint data using a fingerprint matching unit of the flat information recording/processing device; and
outputting a result of the comparison to an exposed terminal of the recording/processing device, the exposed terminal configured to connect to an external terminal.

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29. (Once Amended) A method for controlling operation of a machine comprising the steps of:
sensing a fingerprint of a user;
comparing the sensed fingerprint with preregistered fingerprint data;
controlling access to the machine in accordance with whether the sensed fingerprint data matches the preregistered fingerprint data; and